

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner contends that the application contains two patentably distinct inventions. More specifically, the Examiner contends the application contains the following inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1-17 - directed to a shoe; and
- Group II. Claims 18-26 - directed to a method of manufacturing a shoe.

Applicants respectfully elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I. (Claims 1-17) for further prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of Group II in a divisional application.

Claims 1-17 are directed to a shoe having an outsole having a ground contacting surface which includes a first section and a second section. The first section is formed of a first material and the second section has an outer layer formed of a fabric material. The first section is free of any fabric material, as set forth in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that these features are not found in the prior art presented to the Examiner by the Applicants.

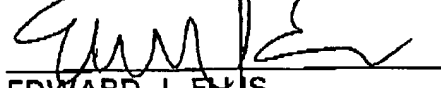
Advantageously, the outsole can be formed of a combination of a fabric material and another material, such as a rubber, leather, etc. The construction of the claimed shoe provides a slip-resistant ground engaging surface which is likewise

durable. Favorable treatment of claims 1-17 is earnestly solicited at this time.

Each and every point in the Office Action dated January 28, 2002 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendment and remarks.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



EDWARD J. ELLIS

Reg. No. 40,389

Attorney for Applicants

DARBY & DARBY, P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
Phone (212) 527-7700

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